

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MISSION FOLLOW-UP ON ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION

REFERENCE: (A) GENEVA 10216; (B) GENEVA 11025

1. USG AGENCIES CONCERNED ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST AND MISSION'S READINESS TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION AND BROADER RATIFICATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION.

2. CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE (US, UK, SWITZERLAND GHANA
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AND ECUADOR), THROUGH ITS SWISS CHAIRMAN DR. PETER GAFNER, IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE WITH UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR KARLSTROM TO ASCERTAIN LEVEL OF FUNDING WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED FROM UNEP FOR CONVENTION SECRETARIAT OVER LONGER TERM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNEP'S EXPRESS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER CONVENTION TO PROVIDE SECRETARIAT AND MEASURED AGAINST INCREASING WORKLOAD DEMANDS

ON SECRETARIAT AS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION PROCEEDS FURTHER AND MORE COUNTRIES ADHERE. U.S. DELEGATIONS TO THE NOVEMBER 1976 BERN CONFERENCE OF PARTIES AND THE OCTOBER 1977 GENEVA SPECIAL WORKING SESSION BOTH EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO PROVISION BY UNEP OF ADEQUATE SECRETARIAT. U.S. MADE SAME POINT AT MAY 1977 UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO MISSION OFFER REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND HELPFUL IF MISSION WERE TO REITERATE THIS U.S. VIEW IN ITS CONTACTS WITH OTHER MISSIONS, WITH GENEVA UNEP OFFICE AND WITH IUCN, AS OCCASION PERMITS. FYI: RECOGNIZING MANY OTHER DEMANDS UPON UNEP BUDGET AND UNEP'S NEED TO STRIKE A REASONABLE BALANCE AMONG THEM, WE ANTICIPATE THAT LEVEL OF FUNDING UNEP MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MAY STILL BE INSUFFICIENT IN LONG RUN AND HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PARTIES THEMSELVES IF SECRETARIAT IS TO MEET ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ARE EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. JOINING WITH OTHERS IN DOING SO EVENTUALLY, ONCE FORESEEABLE LEVEL OF SUSTAINED UNEP SUPPORT HAS BEEN MORE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. END FYI.

3. BROAD INTERNATIONAL ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTION IS VITAL TO ITS EFFECTIVE GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION. 40 COUNTRIES ARE NOW PARTIES AND OTHERS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME SO IN NEAR FUTURE. YET LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, AND ASIA REMAIN SERIOUSLY UNDERREPRESENTED. THESE AREAS INCLUDE UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY OF THE WORLD'S MOST WILDLIFE-RICH COUNTRIES WHICH SERVE AS MAJOR SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILD FLORA AND FAUNA. EARLY RATIFICATION BY MANY MORE OF THESE COUNTRIES AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT IS OF SPECIAL URGENCY. THE NEXT CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1979 IN COSTA RICA, MAY HELP ATTRACT GREATER LATIN AMERICAN INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT, BUT ALL THREE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS ARE OF SPECIAL CONCERN. ANY SUPPORT THE MISSION CAN GIVE THROUGH ITS CONTACTS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. AS INDICATED REFTEL, NON-ADHERENCE BY COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND SINGAPORE IS ALSO A PROBLEM. SUCH COUNTRIES SERVE AS PROCESSORS, CONSUMERS AND ENTREPOTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE SPECIES AND PRODUCTS, AND THEIR LACK OF PARTICIPATION CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS GAP IN THE SYSTEM SET UP UNDER THE CONVENTION. FRANCE IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT ITALY IS STILL LAGGING, AND JAPAN AND SINGAPORE HAVE SO FAR SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST. IF MISSION HAS APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY WITH COLLEAGUES FROM THESE COUNTRIES TO ENCOURAGE RATIFICATION, THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. FYI: CONVENTION

PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO TREAT NON-PARTY STATES AS IF THEY
WERE PARTIES AND TO REQUIRE FROM THEM IMPORT/EXPORT
DOCUMENTATION EQUIVALENT TO THAT REQUIRED UNDER THE CONVEN-
TION; THUS ANY ADVANTAGE TO LATTER IN REMAINING OUTSIDE
CONVENTION IS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. END FYI:

5. REF B, JUST RECEIVED, PROVIDES VERY VALUABLE STATUS
REPORT ON IUCN WHICH OF COURSE PLAYS KEY ROLE IN FURNISH-
ING CONVENTION SECRETARIAT UNDER CONTRACT FROM UNEP. IN
SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS WITH NEW IUCN LEADERSHIP, AMBASSADOR
MAY WISH TO REAFFIRM US COMMITMENT OF FULL SUPPORT IN THIS
EFFORT AND INVITE IUCN VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT HELP MOST.
WE ARE CONSIDERING MORE SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED WITH RES-
PECT TO IUCN ITSELF IN REF B, WITH AIM OF KEEPING MISSION
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CURRENT ON USG THINKING. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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